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ABSTRACT

This report provides information on the education system of Cape Verde, and is designed to assist college admissions officers and registrars in the United States with the admission and placement of students from that country. The report contains general information on the geography, history, and people of Cape Verde, as well as more specific information on the islands' elementary and secondary education system. Elementary education in Cape Verde is free, universal, and compulsory for 6 years for students between the ages of 7 and 13, although attendance is not strictly enforced. Secondary education consists of a 3-year general cycle followed by a 2-year pre-university cycle. There are no post-secondary institutions in Cape Verde, although several teacher training institutions and one industrial-commercial school are in existence. A Cape Verde grading scale, with equivalent American letter grades, is provided. Two appendixes provide information on educational credentials and sample credentials and diplomas. A map of Cape Verde is included. (MDM)

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ED 388 127

# Cape Verde

## A Country Guide Series Report From the AACRAO-AID Project

HE 028 667

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Cape Verde

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# Cape Verde

## A Country Guide Series Report From the AACRAO-AID Project

By
**Joseph A. Sevigny**
Graduate School of Arts and Science
New York University
1995

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 330, Washington, DC 20036-1171

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# Preface

This report is part of the Country Guide Series developed by the Office of International Education Services (OIES) of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the AACRAO-AID Project Cooperative Agreement. The purpose of the Country Guide Series is to provide information on educational systems from which USAID-funded students come, but for which little previous information has been available. It is intended that this series of monographs will assist college and university admissions officers and registrars with the admission and placement of students from educational systems with which they may not be familiar in U.S. postsecondary institutions.

Since the mid-1960s, AACRAO members knowledgeable about foreign educational systems have assisted the U.S. Agency for International Development by providing "Credential Analysis Worksheets" for USAID-funded students coming to the United States for degree study. The "Credential Analysis Worksheets" were a thoroughly researched and detailed explanation of the educational system(s) in which the student had studied, as well as a comment on the specific educational credential(s) held by the student. Unless otherwise noted, any grading scales comparing foreign grades with U.S. grades have been suggested by the author and reviewed by the director of OIES, based on their more than 30 years' experience with the AACRAO-AID Project.

Each report in the series contains information on the credentials and other documentation that would be minimally required for entry from the country to specified levels of study in the United States. This data is based on the work of the AACRAO-AID Project and represents the prevailing opinion and considered judgment of the experienced foreign-student admissions officers who have participated in the project.

This report was developed as a result of the author's research on the educational system of the country represented. All credentials referenced in the report appear on the educational ladder in Appendix A, part I. The "credentials required" section, contained as Appendix A, part II, comes from information provided in the AACRAO-AID publication *Foreign Educational Credentials Required for Consideration of Admission to Universities and Colleges in the United States*. Not all the credentials referred to will necessarily be included in this section, as the only credentials included are those reviewed by the AACRAO-AID Project.

The data contained in the Country Guide Series is the latest available. However, as changes occur constantly in the world's educational systems, new programs and documents may exist. The lists of credentials and institutions may not be exhaustive in the case of some countries presented. Included are the most commonly seen records. We hope you find this report and the Country Guide Series a useful resource in the evaluation of foreign educational credentials.

Dale E. Gough
Director
Office of International Education Services/AACRAO-AID Project

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# General Information

## Geography

Cape Verde consists of ten islands and five islets located in the Atlantic Ocean, 385 miles off the northwest coast of Africa. The islands are divided into windward and leeward groups. The windward group, known as the Barlaventos, are Santo Antão, São Vicente, Santa Luiza, São Nicolau, Sal, and Boa Vista. The leeward islands, known as the Sotaventos, are Maio, São Tiago, Fogo, and Brava. The total land area of the islands covers 1,557 square miles.

Praia, the national capital, has a population of 55,000 people and is located on São Tiago. Mindelo, the next largest city, has a population of 47,000 people and is located on São Vicente. In 1992 the United Nations estimated the total population of Cape Verde to be approximately 390,000 people.

The three eastern-most islands, Sal, Boa Vista, and Maio, have flat terrain and lack potable water supplies. The other islands have varying terrain, consisting of rugged volcanic mountains reaching upwards of 4,200 feet. Erosion is a problem on all the islands but especially in the Barlaventos where high winds create enormous sand storms that cause soil erosion and limit the amount of arable land. In addition, Cape Verde is situated in the Sahel, a climatic region characterized by hot, dry weather and erratic rainfall. The average annual rainfall in the capital is approximately 9.5 inches, and long periods of drought are common.

The primary natural resources of the islands are salt, limestone, and pozzolana, a volcanic rock used in cement production. Agriculture is mainly at the subsistence level and consists of bananas, corn, beans, and manioc. Fish and shellfish, also a major component of the Cape Verdean economy, are abundant.

## History

Portuguese mariners discovered Cape Verde in 1456, and by 1462, São Tiago was settled by Portuguese colonists. In the sixteenth century the islands prospered from the transatlantic slave trade, and Mindelo harbor became an important supply stop for slave and cargo ships traveling across the Atlantic.

The Portuguese colonists initiated the plantation system of agriculture on the islands. This method of converting large areas of land into commodity-producing plantations was duplicated in other regions of Portugal's expanding realm, including Angola, Mozambique, and Brazil.

In 1951, to quell rising nationalism, Portugal changed Cape Verde's status as a colony to an overseas province. In 1956 Amilcar Cabral, a native Cape Verdean, helped form the clandestine African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC). A guerrilla war against Portuguese forces was launched in 1961 from Guinea-Bissau. The PAIGC forces defeated the Portuguese, and independence was declared for Cape Verde on July 5, 1975. Both Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau came under the rule of the PAIGC, which sought unification. A constitution was eventually adopted that established a single-party, socialist-type regime.

A November 1980 coup in Guinea-Bissau led the Cape Verde wing of the PAIGC to break away and abandon the movement toward unification. In 1981 the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV) replaced the PAIGC faction in the islands. In 1991 the PAICV was voted out of office and replaced by the Movement for Democracy (MPD), establishing Cape Verde as the first sub-Saharan African country with a single-party leadership to hold multi-party elections.

## People

The people of Cape Verde are mixed-blood descendants of African slaves and Portuguese colonists. The official language is Portuguese, but most Cape Verdeans speak a Creole dialect known as *Crioulo*. The Roman Catholic church is the dominant religious influence.

There are approximately one million people of Cape Verdean ancestry living world-wide, however, only one-third of them actually live in the islands. The United States is home to approximately 350,000 people of Cape Verdean ancestry, who live mostly in New England. Portugal, Brazil, and Senegal also have large Cape Verdean populations.

# Education

Education in Cape Verde is free, universal, and compulsory for six years for students between the ages of 7 and 13. However, attendance is not enforced. Enrollment tends to be high at the first level, attributable to the presence of repeaters, but at the secondary level is considerably lower, mainly due to students dropping out. In response to this high drop-out rate, and as a means to improve basic skills, the education system in Cape Verde was revised in 1987.

The school year runs from October to July, and the language of instruction is Portuguese.

## Primary Education

Prior to 1987, primary education was divided into two cycles. The first cycle, *instrução primária* (primary education), lasted six years, followed by three years of *escola preparatória* (middle school). The educational reforms of 1987 deleted *escola preparatória* from the primary stage making primary education a single six-year cycle. (See sample documents A and B for a copy of a *Certidão de Exame de Fim de Ciclo* [Certificate of Final Examinations] from Escola do Ensino Básico Complementar Eugénio Tavares [Eugenio Taveres Junior High School] and its English translation.)

## Secondary Education

Prior to 1987, secondary education, offered through the *liceus* (lycees), provided two options: a three-year general course of study leading to the *Curso Complementar do Ensino Tecnico* (Certificate of the Completion of General/Technical Education), or a two-year pre-university course leading to the *Curso Complementar dos Liceus* (Certificate of the Completion of a Lycee).

After 1987, secondary education became a single five-year stage divided into two cycles: a three-year general cycle, followed by a two-year pre-university cycle. Successful completion of the secondary stage leads to the *Curso Complementar do Ensino Secondario* (Certificate of the Completion of Secondary Education). (See sample documents C and D for a copy of a *certidão* [certificate] from the Liceu Domingos Ramos [Domingo Ramos High School] and its English translation. Also, see sample document E for a *certidão* from the Liceu Nacional Ludgero Lima [Ludgero Lima National High School] and sample document F for its *attestation*.)

## Continuing Education

There are no post-secondary institutions in Cape Verde, but the country does have several teacher-training institutions and one industrial-commercial school, which are not considered post-secondary institutions.[1] Students wishing to obtain post-secondary education have traditionally traveled abroad, mainly to Portugal, Brazil, and the United States. (For examples of credentials earned by Cape Verdeans studying abroad, see sample documents G and H for a copy of a *Diploma do Curso de Regente Agricola* [Diploma for the Course of Agricultural Junior Engineer] from the Escola de Regentes Agricolas de Santarém [Agricultural Junior Engineer School in Santarem, Portugal] and its English translation. See sample documents I and J for a *declaracão* [letter of recommendation] for *servico publico federal* [federal public service] completed in Paraiba, Brazil and its English translation.)

### Cape Verde Grading Scale

| Cape Verde Grades | Suggested Comparable U.S. Grades* | |
|---|---|---|
| 18-20 | A | Excellent (or Very Good) |
| 14-17 | B | Very Good (or Good) |
| 10-13 | C | Average (or Fair) |
| 0-9 | F | Fail |

*Source: an AACRAO-AID project credential analysis

1. The names and locations of the teacher-training institutions and the commercial school were not available.

# Appendix A: Educational Ladder and Credentials Required

## I. Educational Ladder

| | Primary | | | | | | Secondary | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Years of Education | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | A* B | C* |

### Qualifications

A *Curso Complementar dos Liceus* (Certificate of the Completion of a Lycee)

B *Curso Complementar do Ensino Secondario* (Certificate of the Completion of Secondary Education)

C *Curso Complementar do Ensino Tecnico* (Certificate of the Completion of General/Technical Education)

Note: * indicates prior to 1987

## II. Credentials Required for Cape Verde*

| **Admission to:** | **Required Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees:** | **Required Documentation:** |
|---|---|---|
| I. Undergraduate (postsecondary) A. Freshman (first year) | -*Curso Complementar dos Liceus* -*Curso Complementar do Ensino Tecnico* | -Record of subjects and marks earned |
| B. Transfer (possible advanced credit) | -No postsecondary programs available | -Record of subjects and marks earned |
| C. Unclassified/ Special | -Any of the above applicable | -As applicable |
| II. Graduate (advanced degree work) | -No first degree equivalent program available | |

* Source: *Foreign Educational Credentials Required for Consideration of Admission to Universities and Colleges in the United States,* American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, 1994

## Appendix B: Sample Documents

Escola do Ensino Básico Complementa

«Eugénio Tavares»

SANTIAGO — CABO VERDE

CERTIDÃO DE EXAME

DE FIM DE CICLO

SAMPLE

..... ADELINO ALMEIDA C.R.V.LHO ..... Chefe da Secret

... DA ESCOLA DO ENSINO BÁSICO COMPLEMENTAR EUGÊNIO TAVARES ..

Certifico em face do despacho exarado no requerimento arquivado na Secretaria desta Escola, q

.....

nascid.. em ... de ..... de 19 ...

natural do concelho de ..... SANTIAGO .....

filho.. de António Pereira Brito e de Eduarda Tavares dos Reis Br

.....

concluiu, no ano escolar de 19 .70../ 19 .71.. como aluno desta Escola, o EXAME DE FIM D CICLO DO ENSINO BASICO COMPLEMENTAR a que se refere o artigo 87.º do Decre n.º 48 579, de 9 de Setembro de 1968, com a classificação final de .11 (ONZE) ... valor

Obs. Def. a Francês

Consta dos documentos arquivados.

E por ser verdade, e para constar onde convier, se passa a presente certidão que v por mim assinada e autenticada com o selo branco da Escola.

.....Praia, ...22 de ...Abril ..... de 19 87.

Sample Document A

Copy of a *Certidão de Exame de Fim de Ciclo* from
Escola do Ensino Básico Complementar Engénio Tavares



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INFORMAL TRANSLATION

EUGENIO TAVARES JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SANTIAGO-CAPE VERDE

CERTIFICATE OF FINAL EXAMINATIONS

SAMPLE

ANICETO ALMEIDA CARDOSO, Head of Administration at Eugénio Tavares Junior High School:

I certify, in accordance with the decision made on the petition, which has been filed in the Administration Office, that , born in Santa Catarina, Santiago Island, Cape Verde, son of Antonio Pereira Brito and of Eduarda Tavares dos Reis Brito, completed in the school year 1970/1971, as a pupil of the Eugenio Tavares Junior High School, the final examinations, referred to in the 87th clause of Decree No. 48572, dated September 9, 1968, with the final grade of 11.

Remarks: Deficiency in French.

Reported in the filed records.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this certificate is being signed and authenticated.

Praia, April 22, 1987.

The Head of Administration, signed on a 30$00 CVE stamp:
Aniceto Almeida Carvalho.

Sample Document B
English translation of sample document A

REPÚBLICA DE CABO VERDE

**Liceu "Domingos Ramos"**

**CERTIDÃO** Nº.1001/85

(Artigo 14.º do Decreto n.º 15941)

MARIA DAS DORES BRITO ESTRELA SENA, *Chefe da Secretaria do Liceu «Domingos Ramos» cidade da Praia:*

*Certifico, em cumprimento do despacho exarado em requerimento que fica arquivado nesta Secreta que* ..... *natural de* Nossa Senhora da Luz====== *concelho do* Maio====== *filho* de Germano Vieira Rocha Querido====== ..... *confluiu neste Liceu em* dois de Agosto====== *de mil novecentos e* oitenta e cinco====== *o exame do 5. ano do curso complementar (ex-7.º a dos liceus, tendo obtido a classificação final de (*13(TREZE)*) valores e, por disciplinas, as seguintes classificações:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Português* | APROVADO | com 11(ONZE) valores |
| *Latim* | ========== | " ========== " |
| *Francês* | ========== | " ========== " |
| *Inglês* | ========== | " ========== " |
| *História* | ========== | " ========== " |
| *Filosofia* | APROVADO | " 12(DOZE) " |
| *Geografia* | ========== | " ========== " |
| *Ciências Naturais* | DISPENSADO | " 15(QUINZE) " |
| *Físico-Químicas* | APROVADO | " 11(ONZE) " |
| *Matemática* | DISPENSADO | " 15(QUINZE) " |
| *Desenho* | DISPENSADO | " 15(QUINZE) " |
| *Introdução à Política* | ========== | " ========== " |

SAMPLE

Sample Document C

Copy of a *certidão* from the Liceu Domingos Ramos



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INFORMAL TRANSLATION

REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE

DOMINGOS RAMOS HIGH SCHOOL

CERTIFICATE

(Clause 14th of Decree No. 15941)

SAMPLE

Maria das Dores Brito Estrela Sena, Head of Administration Office of Domingos Ramos High School, in the city of Praia:

I certify, in accordance with the decision made on the petition which has been filed in this Administration Office, that , born in Nossa Senhora da Luz, county of Maio, son of , completed in this High School on August second of the year one thousand nine hundred eighty five, the examinations of the second year of the Complementary Course (former seventh year of High School) having obtained the final average score of THIRTEEN (13) and the following scores in each of the disciplines listed below:

| | |
|---|---|
| PORTUGUESE | 11 (ELEVEN) |
| PHILOSOPHY | 12 (TWELVE) |
| EARTH SCIENCES | 15 (FIFTEEN) |
| PHYSICS-CHEMISTRY | 11 (ELEVEN) |
| MATHEMATICS | 15 (FIFTEEN) |
| DRAWING | 15 (FIFTEEN) |

Reported in the Book 18 on page 67 with the white seal of this High School.

Administration Office of Domingos Ramos High School, August 30, 1985.

The purpose of this Certificate is to apply to a scholarship.

The Head of the Administration Office (signed) Maria das Dores Brito Estrela Sena.

Sample Document D

English translation of sample document C



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REPUBLICA DE CABO VERDE

# LICEU NACIONAL LUDGERO LIMA

## C E R T I D Ã O

*(Artigo 14.º do Decreto n.º 15.941)*

SAMPLE

PEDRO MANUEL DELGADO, PRIMEIRO OFICIAL DE NOMEAÇÃO INTERINA,

[illegible] Secretaria do Liceu «Ludgero Lima», na cidade do Mindelo:

Certifico, em cumprimento do despacho exarado em requerimento que lhe fica arquivado nesta secretaria, que [illegible] natural de Nossa Senhora do Rosário, concelho de Ribeira Grande, filho de [illegible] concluiu neste Liceu em Onze de Junho de mil novecentos e oitenta e cinco o exame do 2º ano do Complementar (Ex-7º ano dos Liceus), das disciplinas a que se refere a alínea [illegible] do artigo 5.º do Decreto-Lei n.º 36.507, de 17 de Setembro de 1947, tendo obtido a classificação final de 15(QUINZE) valores e obtendo por disciplinas as seguintes classificações:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Português | DISPENSADO | com 15(QUINZE) valores |
| Latim | | |
| Grego | | |
| Francês | | |
| Inglês | | |
| Alemão | | |
| História | | |
| Filosofia | DISPENSADO | 16(DEZASSEIS) |
| Geografia | | |
| Ciências Naturais | DISPENSADO | 15(QUINZE) |
| Físico-Químicas | DISPENSADO | 15(QUINZE) |
| Matemática | DISPENSADO | 15(QUINZE) |
| Desenho | DISPENSADO | 17(DEZASSETE) |
| Int. à Política | | |

Sample Document E

Copy of a *certidão* from the Liceu Nacional Ludgero Lima



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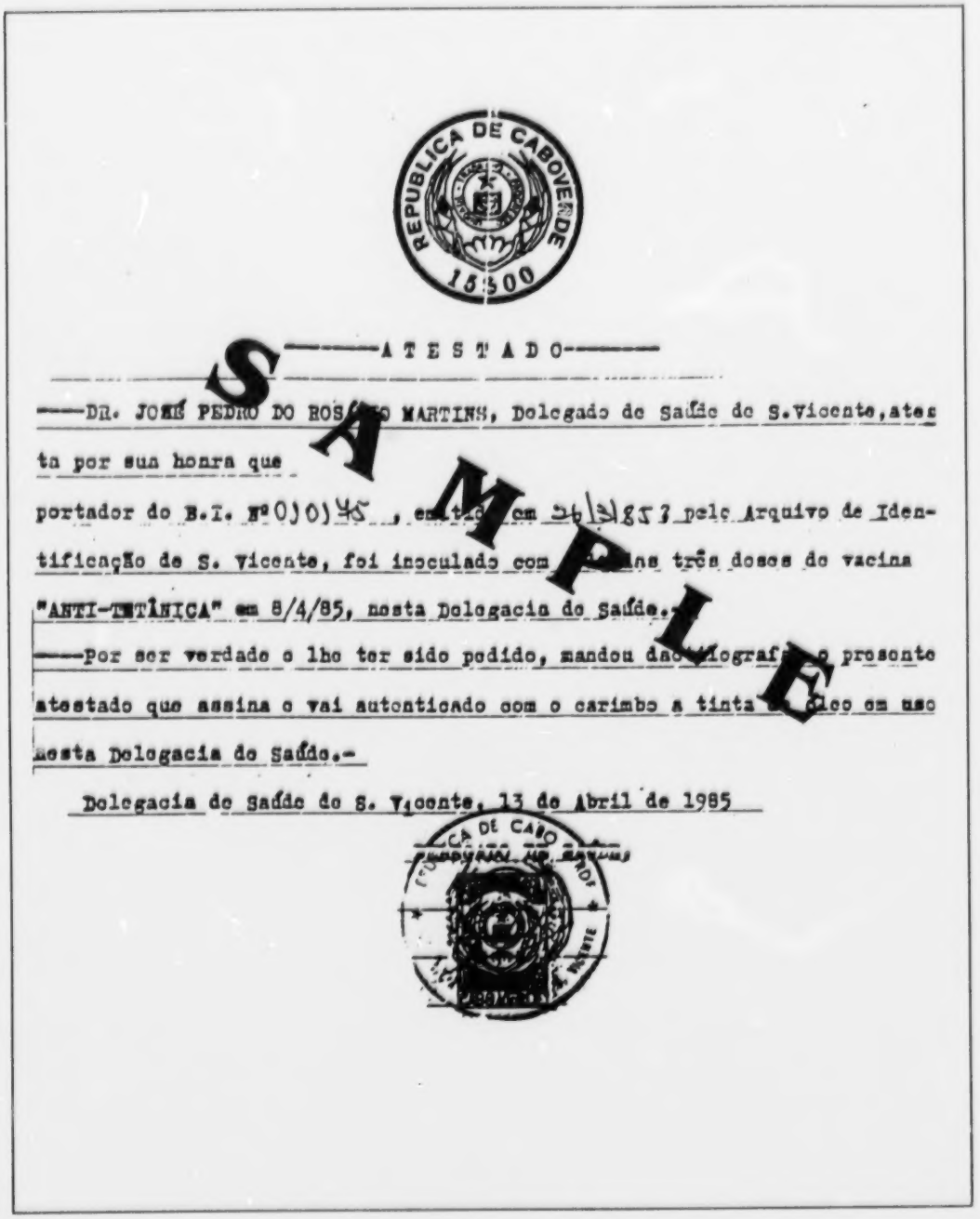

REPUBLICA DE CABOVERDE
15$00

ATESTADO

SAMPLE

——DR. JOSÉ PEDRO DO ROSÁRIO MARTINS, Delegado de Saúde de S.Vicente,atesta por sua honra que

portador do B.I. Nº 0)0)45 , emitido em 26/3/83 pelo Arquivo de Identificação de S. Vicente, foi inoculado com as primeiras três doses de vacina "ANTI-TETÂNICA" em 8/4/85, nesta Delegacia de Saúde.-

——Por ser verdade e lhe ter sido pedido, mandou dactilografar o presente atestado que assina e vai autenticado com o carimbo a tinta em uso nesta Delegacia de Saúde.-

Delegacia de Saúde de S. Vicente, 13 de Abril de 1985

REPUBLICA DE CABO VERDE
DELEGACIA DE SAÚDE

Sample Document F

Attestation of a *certidão* from the Liceu Nacional Ludgero Lima



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R. P.

# ESCOLA DE REGENTES AGRÍCOLAS
DE
## SANTARÉM

SAMPLE

DIPLOMA DO CURSO DE REGENTE AGRICOLA

O Director da ESCOLA DE REGENTES AGRÍCOLAS DE SANTARÉM

faz saber que _____

filho de _____

natural de Santa Catarina - Cabo Verde, _____

concluiu nesta Escola o Curso de Regente Agrícola, em 12 de Junho _____ de 19 78, com a classificação final de 12 valores (DOZE VALORES. _____). Em conformidade com os artigos duzentos e cinquenta e oito e duzentos e cinquenta e nove do decreto número trinta e oito mil e vinte e seis, de dois de Novembro de mil novecentos e cinquenta, se confere o presente diploma, devidamente selado e assinado.

Escola de Regentes Agrícolas de Santarém, em 22 de Junho _____ de 19 78

P/O DIRECTOR

P/O PROFESSOR SECRETÁRIO

Sample Document G

Copy of a *Diploma do Curso de Regente Agricola* from the Escola de Regentes Agricolas de Santarém

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

AGRICULTURAL JUNIOR ENGINEER SCHOOL IN SANTAREM, PORTUGAL

DIPLOMA FOR THE COURSE OF
AGRICULTURAL JUNIOR ENGINEER

SAMPLE

The Director of the Agricultural Junior Engineer School in Santarem, Portugal:

Certifies that son of
and of
born in Santa Catarina, Cape Verde, completed in this School the course of Agricultural Junior Engineer, with the final grade of 12, on June 19, 1978.

This Diploma is awarded duly stamped and signed, according to the clauses two hundred and fifty-eight and two hundred and fifty-nine of Decree thirty eight thousand twenty-six, dated November second, one thousand nine hundred and fifty.

Agricultural Junior Engineer School, in Santarem, June 22, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight.

The Director (signed on two stamps in the amount of 800$00 PE): Augusto Rosa Pais de Azevedo. For the Secretary-Teacher (signed) Augusto Rosa Pais de Azevedo.

Sample Document H
English translation of sample document G

SERVIÇO PÚBLICO FEDERAL

MI - DNOCS - 3.ª DR
Perímetro Irrigado de
SÃO GONÇALO
Sousa - Paraíba

SAMPLE

- DECLARAÇÃO -

DECLARO, para os devidos fins, que o Agente Técnico

no município de Sousa, Estado da Paraíba- / Brasil, no período de 15/08/1977 a 27/05/1978, obedecendo a seguinte programação: Tecnologia e Economia Cultutal das Culturas de Banana, Tomate, Algodão, Feijão Vigna, Arroz; Métodos de Irrigação e Drenagem de terras agrícolas e práticas/ de Laboratório em análise físico-química de Solos.

O referido Estagiário demonstrou assiduidade aos trabalhos práticos de campo e obteve excelente aproveitamento.

São Gonçalo-Sousa-Paraíba-Brasil, 26/05/1978

Zenon Alencar Oliveira
Engº. Agrº. Mat. 47 - Crea-PB

Sample Document I
Copy of a *declaracão* for *servico publico federal*
completed in Paraiba, Brazil

Letter of recommendation

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

SAMPLE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I declare that Technician , was in training at the"San Gonçalo Irrigated Perimeter"in the municipality of Sousa, State of Paraíba, Brazil, from the period of 8/15/77 through 5/25/78, participating in the following programs:

Technology and cultural concerns of Banana, Tomato, Cotton, Bean, and Rice crops; Irrigation Methods and Drainage and Laboratory Practices in Physics-Chemistry Soil Analysis.

The above mentioned trainee proved to be assiduous to the practical field works and made excellent use of the training provided.

Zenon Alencar Oliveira

Sample Document J
English translation of sample document I

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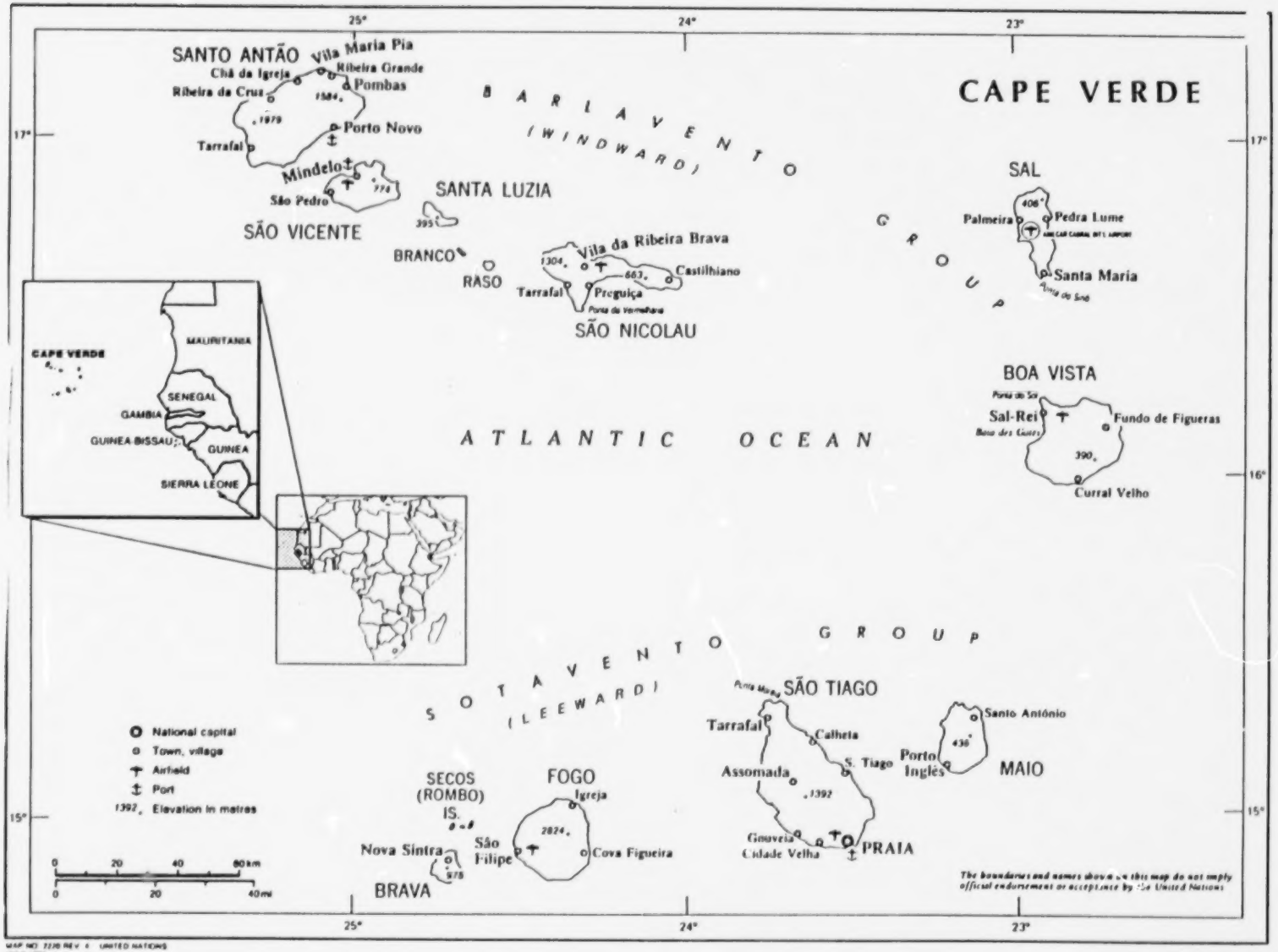


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